

House of Representatives during the 53rd and 54th Legislature representing Cleburn and Johnson counties. Throughout his life, he was active with Texas A&M University and served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Former Students.

Madam Speaker, I am so privileged to be able to bring the life of Charles Kirkham to the attention of this Congress. He was a man of great character and deep personal conviction, and he will be truly missed. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of this great man who led a noble life and gave wholeheartedly to his community.

HONORING JOHN WILLIAM
"BLIND" BOONE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late John William "Blind" Boone, famed ragtime musician and a proud son of Missouri. It is my honor and privilege to participate in the celebration and observance of Boone's birthday, Monday, May 17, 2010. I would also like to recognize the members of the John William "Blind" Boone Heritage Foundation, who plan to restore and preserve the home where "Blind" Boone lived in Columbia, Missouri, coinciding with his birthday.

John William Boone was born on May 17, 1864, in the midst of the Civil War. Soon after his birth, he was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness that doctors referred to as a "brain fever." Doctors believed the only chance for survival would come through a radical operation that would end the brain swelling; they would have to remove his eyes.

The procedure was a success and would alter the course of his life. Boone faced much adversity but soldiered through. His musical talents were noticed early on, and he would later become one of the legendary musicians of his era, with a classical repertoire, which included folk music, religious songs and, most famously, ragtime. In 1912, he was contacted by the QRS Piano Roll Company and became one of the first African American artists to cut piano rolls.

Music allowed Boone to cross many racial boundaries and brought him all over the world, bringing diverse audiences together. Boone enjoyed an illustrious career and spent the remainder of his life in Columbia, Missouri.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging John William "Blind" Boone and his contributions to the arts.

COLONEL ANTHONY C.
FUNKHOUSER

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great public servant, the outgoing Army Corps of Engineers Commander and Division Engineer for the Southwestern Division, Colonel Anthony C. Funkhouser.

Colonel Funkhouser began his public service at West Point, New York where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering at the United States Military Academy. During his 25 years of distinguished service as an engineer he has had the opportunity to serve in theater during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as serving at numerous installations including Eschborn, Germany; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and Fort Irwin, California. He has served as the Tulsa District's Commander since 2007 and in 2009, while retaining the Tulsa Command, was promoted to Commander and Division Engineer of the Southwestern Division.

Madam Speaker, his outstanding service and bravery has earned him the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, the Combat Action Badge, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, Army Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, and Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti Liberation medals.

During Colonel Funkhouser's service as Commander of the U.S. Army Engineer Division's Tulsa District beginning in June 2007, he has shown tremendous leadership, professionalism, and adaptability. He has performed his duty in such a way as to earn great respect from his colleagues. Immediately at the conclusion of his change of command ceremony on June 29th, he was challenged to address historic flooding issues at Lake Texoma and Lake Waurika. In the past three years of Colonel Funkhouser's service at the Tulsa District, he has addressed infrastructure needs and shown that his skills lie not only in engineering but working well with all of the diverse groups that rely upon his leadership and judgment.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Colonel Anthony Funkhouser for his dedication to the United States Army. We are a better and stronger nation because of his service.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHIEF OF
STAFF MARVIN "MAC" KING

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and dedication of my Deputy Chief of Staff, Marvin "Mac" King, who has been on my staff for many years and leaves his work on Capitol Hill to join his wife, Col. Barbara King, a doctor of dental surgery with the Air Force specializing in prosthetic dentistry, in Okinawa, Japan.

Mac first came to my office as an intern in the early 90s after obtaining his law degree. During the time of his internship in my office, Mac excelled in all tasks assigned to him. I knew he would be a valuable and important asset to the Ortiz Team.

Mac, a graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering and a juris doctor degree from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, has worked as a reservoir engineer with the Nat-

ural Gas Pipeline of America in Houston, Texas, and has served as president and technical manager of Losack Inc. in San Antonio, Texas. He has also served as acting counsel in the House of Representatives for the House Subcommittee on Oceanography, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Outer Continental Shelf and as a consulting engineer for Research Management Consultants Inc.

Shortly after the conclusion of his internship, Mac became a full-time employee in my Washington, DC, office where he served as legislative director and counsel from 1995 to 2002. I never doubted Mac's skills and in 2002 I named him deputy chief of staff and he continued to serve as my counsel. At that time, Mac oversaw a staff of ten to sixteen employees in my offices in Washington, DC, Corpus Christi and Brownsville, Texas.

Mac became so good at what he did—he was the "go-to" person in our office. Through the years, I saw Mac grow from an intern to an aggressive and well-rounded legislative guru who knew the ins and outs of Congress.

In 2006, Mac left the House of Representatives to work as deputy director for strategic communications with the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

However, it was too early for Mac to leave Congress, or that's how I like to think of it. In 2009, after more than three years of being out of the Halls of Congress, Mac returned to my office as legislative director and counsel. Within months Mac was appointed deputy chief of staff, a position he will hold until Friday, May 21, 2010.

Mac leaves the Ortiz Team to go live in Okinawa, Japan, with his lovely wife, Barbara. I take this time to thank Mac for his invaluable and relentless work and service for the 27th District of Texas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work and service of Mac for his more than 12 years of employment in the House of Representatives. On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I extend a warm and heartfelt thank you to Marvin "Mac" King for all he has done to better the 27th District of Texas and this great country.

INTRODUCTION OF PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE FUNDING
STABILIZATION ACT OF 2010

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today we seek to do the right thing for our nation's inventors and innovative businesses—provide the United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, with the resources for reliable and sustainable funding. This bill does this by giving the USPTO fee-setting authority, providing the USPTO with the authority to impose a 15 percent temporary surcharge for all of the USPTO's fees, and preventing fees that the USPTO collects from being diverted away from the agency for unrelated government programs. I strongly support this bill because it would help the USPTO hire additional examiners, help reduce the backlog of patent applications, and improve patent quality.

The USPTO is in the midst of a crisis. According to the Commerce Department's own